



# Neighborhood Planning Assembly Draft Minutes

NPA:  
(choose one)

Wards  
1 & 8

Wards  
2 & 3

**Wards  
4 & 7**

Ward  
5

Ward  
6

Date of Assembly: 10/27/21

Start Time: (Commence): 7:00 PM

Finish Time: (Adjourn): 9:03 PM

Location: Zoom & Community Room, Robert Miller Community & Recreation Center

Note taker: Ethan Fellows, CEDO

## Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Jeff Clark (Ward 4), Olivia Taylor (Ward 7), Jeff Comstock (Ward 7), Matt Hurlburt (Ward 7), Evan Litwin (Ward 4)

## Discussion Topics

- 7:00 - 7:15 Announcements & Introductions
- 7:15 - 7:45 Elected Officials - City Council, School Board & Legislature
- 7:45 - 8:15 Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee Discussion  
Presenters: Jim Holway, Robert Bristow-Johnson, Lea Turhune, Jeff Comstock
- 8:15 - 8:45 Burlington Capital Plan  
Presenter: Mayor Miro Wienberger
- 8:45 – 9:00 ISGOOD Group  
Presenter: Brian Cina

## Actions Taken / Decisions Made

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## Attendance:

### Zoom Attendees:

Sarah Carpenter	Rep. Carol Ode	Matt Hurlburt	Paul Constantino
Olivia Taylor	Jeff Clark	Miro Weinberger	Brigit Bozek
Ali Deng	Paul Buscher	Samantha Sheehan	Sylvia Knight
Olivia Milens	Evan Litwin	Martha Molpus	Robert Hooper
Mark Barlow	Mary Chaffee	Stephan Hamlin	Edward Murphy
Kendra Sowers	Jordan Redell	Jim Holway	Brian Cina
Al Belluche	George Schoonejongen	James Loop	Nancy Ellis
R Goulding	Meghan Purvee	Charles Dinklage	

### In-Person Attendees:

Phyllis Bristow-Johnson	Bridget O'Keefe, CEDO
Robert Bristow-Johnson	Peter Ireland
Jeff Comstock	

## Agenda Items and Actions:

### Announcements & Introductions

- Jeff Clark, Wards 4&7 NPA Steering Committee Member and tonight's facilitator, covered the ground rules, including being respectful and raising your hand to be added to the queue to speak.

- Olivia Ward, Ward 4&7 Steering Committee took attendance: attendees of the meeting then introduced themselves by name, role and ward.
- Announcement: Sylvia Knight
  - Wanted to bring attention to Costello Waste Management's Draft Permit to change how to deal with the landfill in Coventry. Also wished to bring attention to the impact upon Montpelier and residual waste going into the Winooski River. There is a upcoming hearing and comment period for the proposal
- Announcement Jeff Clark
  - Steering Committee is discussing moving upcoming November NPA meeting in order to not conflict with the Ad Hoc Redistricting Meeting as well as the December Meeting.

### **Elected Officials - City Council, School Board & Legislature**

- Sarah Carpenter
  - City Council was able to resolve the Police Headcount based on the recommendations of the CNA Report.
    - Emphasized that the department is hiring and wants to hire, asked that attendees spread the word
    - Were able to approve using federal funds for police bonuses and recruitment bonuses in an effort to bolster recruitment and retention.
  - CC approved a resolution to ask the city to pull together a mental health summit primarily focused on public safety
  - CC recently had a meeting on Sear's Lane, Councilor Jane Introduced a resolution, believes that we are on a path to resolve the homelessness problem in the city.
    - Plans to set up a day station/warming session
    - Library is planning on helping on to store belongings
- Rob Barlow
  - Adding on to Councilor Carpenter, also passed a resolution to increase the Police Commission's oversight responsibilities through ordinance changes.
  - Also wanted to update that the Municipal Consolidated Collection Proposal Failed: The City will not be taking over trash and compost services although they do want to readdress this topic with a hybrid approach in the future.
  - About 2/3 of the way through with tax appeals, looking to be done in December
  - City plans to unveil and name the new park on Friday (10/29)
- Ali Deng
  - North Avenue will be getting some pavement thanks to the new grant to the city, the project will probably start in the Spring or Summer of 2022
  - Working hard to figure out where Sears Lane residents will be going, have gotten updates from most of them
- ARPA Fund survey is out and recommended to be filled out by all members
  - Survey can be found online
- Kendra Sowers: School Board Rep for the evening
  - Recent meeting with consultants about new building site for the school
    - Going to cost significantly more and take longer to build downtown, documents are posted with complete info on the bsdvt website
  - Next Tuesday there is another School Board meeting in which there will be a vote on which site will be chosen
  - Waiting Study:
  - Proposal by legislators to separate ELL and put it into categorical aid
  - Public comment meeting this Friday 11am-1pm
  - [www.cvtse.org](http://www.cvtse.org)
- Carol Ode

- Summary of meeting with congressional delegation and experts on veteran's affairs, foreign policy, and national security
  - Regarding the F-35's in the area, Federal gov provides 90% match for the city's 10% for soundproofing for area around airport most impacted by sound, attempting to push the area out to include more homes
    - This soundproofing will also help with weatherproofing
  - Mental Illness and Homelessness were topics to be addressed and help/advice were requested
  - Sexual assault in the military
    - Vermont elects their own AG with a focus on assault in the military, working with them
  - Need to deal with schools and other buildings in the state with PCB issues
    - Senator Leahy is meeting with EPA administrators to talk about money set aside for schools especially
- Robert Hooper
  - Recent meeting with the Vet's home board of trustees
    - Discussing moving jobs in, possibly moving a branch into Burlington
  - Infrastructure Bill
    - Great for the population, money received would be very valuable compared to current population
  - Reminder for everyone to double check their healthcare coverages
  - Reminder for everyone to remain vigilant against the virus

### **Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee Discussion**

- Jim Holway
  - Summary of recent redistricting meeting
    - Began with presentation to make sure committee understood their charge
    - Discussed questions/feedback the committee is looking for from the public
    - Will use survey and upcoming meetings to get public input
  - 3 more public meetings- listening sessions to come
    - Nov 1<sup>st</sup> Contois Auditorium City Hall
    - Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, Miller Center
    - Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, TBA
  - A big part of the conversation is public input and feedback, the committee is advisory and informs the next steps therefore it is important for the community to speak out about elements and engage in the conversation
    - # of councilors, districts, wards, etc
- Miller Center
  - There is a need to discuss the size and impact of the new North End and specifically the impact on/of Ward 7
  - 10% deviation in population numbers from the census need to be addressed
- Q&A
  - Sizes, number of wards and councilors all have profound impacts that might not be understood by the average citizen
  - Important for the public to be educated without serving bias
  - Will be looking at survey questions to ensure they don't lead either way and to make sure they convey meaning as best as possible
  - Need to present enough information so people can speak with enough understanding

## **Burlington Capital Plan**

- Miro Weinberger (Slides are online)
  - City's Capital Infrastructure Bond
    - Effort began in 2014, first 5 years are completed
      - Reinvigorating the Greenway
      - Improved sidewalks/roads
      - Renovated many municipal buildings
      - Each project considers its impact on the City's Netzero energy goal
    - Right time for another General Obligation Bond?
      - Decades of deferred maintenance to catch up to
      - Will better position the City for opportunities to receive federal funding
      - Cost of borrowing is currently low
      - Pandemic has set infrastructure planning back 1 year
      - 3.5M (included in bond proceeds helps leverage over \$60M in State and Federal Transportation Grant funds over the next 3 years
      - FY22 Budget Survey showed strong support of infrastructure
    - Listed proposed GO Bond Capital Plan Investments with \$ amounts
    - Charted Fiscal Management and showed other spreadsheets
    - How will this effect tax payers?
      - Taxpayers with median priced home (\$379,100) would see a modest tax increases over time to pay for the \$40M bond beginning at less than \$7 a month in 2023, and a maximum increase of about \$13 a month in 2025

## **ISGOOD Group**

- Brian Cina: Presenting a proposed pilot project
  - ISGOOD: Isham Street Gardening and Other Optimistic Doings
    - NOW: Neighborhood Outreach Worker Program
      - Community Dev program grounded in transformative justice that will cultivate Public safety by building relationships, improving access to social health care, and economic resources, and growing community competency to manage QOL issues.
    - ISGOOD is a mutual aid and community building project that has transformed Isham Street over the past 12 years.
    - ISGOOD 5-phase Action Plan
      - 5 phase plan on development, seen on the slides
    - Improved quality of life inadvertently by restoring and fixing the street
    - Supported by many gov offices such as CEDO
    - Mutual Aid in Burlington
      - ISGOOD
      - People's Kitchen
      - People's Farmstand
      - Food Not Cops
      - BTV Copwatch
      - Racial Justice Alliance
      - Migrant Justice
      - Workers' Center
      - ONEMA
    - The NOW Pilot Project would help neighborhoods address QOL issues
      - Provides peer outreach and support services by training and paying teams of neighbors including students and residents working together as teams to help the neighborhoods

- Outlines duties and accountability for this system and how it would fit into public safety
- Covered possible funding sources such as UVM redirecting its budget, Champlain C, the City, and CEDO applying for Funding